YESTERDAY'S

TEMPERATURES

2nd Edition

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KHULNA

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BARISAL

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starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of people embarked on a motorcade titled "Janajatra" towards Rampal yesterday with a demand that the power plant project near the Sundarbans be cancelled.

The protesters held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka before setting out towards Rampal, Bagerhat around noon.

"By destroying the Sundarbans, the coal fired power plant would leave four crore people of that region vulnerable to natural disasters," said Prof Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the national committee to protect oil, gas, mineral resources, power and ports, which is organising the four-day ourney. The committee also held

similar demands following Bangladesh and India's inking of a deal to set up a 1,320MW power plant at Rampal, only 14 kilometre off the Sundarbans. "There are alternatives to establishing the plant there,

a long march in 2013 with

but the Sundarbans is a unique ecosystem with no alternatives," added Anu Muhammad. The protesters left Dhaka

in a motorcade of 10 buses and several pickup trucks.

UNB reports: thousands of activists of different leftleaning parties, mainly of Workers Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), BSD, and Ganosanghati Andolon joined the long march. Organisers said the long

march will reach Faridpur on Thursday afternoon while Khulna on Friday and finally the Sundarbans on March 13.

The protesters also demanded enactment of a law in order to prevent the export of mineral resources, full implementation of Fulbari Agreement and ban on lifting coal in open method.



RAJSHAHI

H 34.4 | 122.2

National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports starts a four-day march towards Rampal, Bagerhat from Jatiya Press Club yesterday noon, protesting setting up of the proposed Rampal power plant and protecting the Sundarbans from any further disasters.

EC to ask cops to sue Barguna AL MP over breaching polls code

UnION parishad polls 2016

The Daily Star | 3

Hanif urges CEC not to take actions 'illogically' against party men without proper probe STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has decided to ask the superintendent of police (SP) of Barguna to sue a ruling Awami League lawmaker of Barguna-2 constituency Showkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon for violating electoral code.

"The election commissioners have taken the decision, and a letter with the directive will be issued tonight or tomorrow morning," EC Secretary Sirazul Islam told The Daily Star last evening.

The EC, however, has not given any deadline to file the case, said EC officials.

Breaching electoral law, Rimon on March 5 inaugurated a development project in Barguna and sought vote for the AL-nominated chairman aspirants in the upcoming union parishad (UP) polls there, according to news reports.

As per electoral code, inaugurations of all kinds of development project are prohibited in electoral areas and MPs are barred from joining any electoral campaign.

Earlier on Wednesday, the EC issued a show cause notice to AL lawmaker of Pabna-2 constituency Azizul Huq Arzu for violating electoral code of conduct.

After the recent municipal polls held on December 30 last year, the EC complained to the prime minister and

SeE pAGE 5 cOL 5

Citizens' group accuses AL leader Space for dissent of grabbing lands of Hindus

Urge govt to intervene from press conference in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists and minority leaders yesterday urged the government to take necessary actions against the persons with malign intention trying to grab lands of religious minorities in Parbatipur under Dinajpur, and ensure safety and security of all religious minorities. They said these at a press conference

organised at the capital's Jatiya Press Club to unveil an investigation report on land grabbing and attack by local Awami League leader Emdadul Islam Chowdhury. Members of Arpita Sampatti Pottarpon Ain Bastobayon Jaitya

Nagorik Somonnoy cell visited Parbatipur in January and interviewed all parties involved.

According to the cell's report, 55

families, including 40 Hindu families, have been living at 25.78 acres of lands for generations. But after the independence in 1971, the lands were listed as vested property and they used to pay taxes. In 1984, a joint district judge of

etors of a portion of the lands, and ordered that listing of that portion of land as vested property would be illegal. Following the declaration, the government filed a review petition

Dinajpur declared two women propri-

challenging it, but the Supreme Court and appellate division scrapped the petition in 2002. Since then, they had been using the

lands until 2004 when the lands were listed as khas lands, the report said. But Emdadul was not declared

proprietor of the lands, speakers said.

"If the court gave verdict against us, then we will leave it," he said, adding that Emdadul and his men still kept grabbing the lands and attacking them (victims) despite a court injunction barring Emdadul from using the lands

"Though Emdadul is claiming that

he bought the lands from one Hasina

Begum, he could not show any docu-

ment in support of his claim. There are

no such records in the land office

either," said Advocate Rana Dasgupta,

general secretary of Hindu-Buddhist-

Victim Ananta Kumar Roy said they

filed a case with a joint district judge

court in 2012 claiming their ownership

of the lands, which was now under

Christian Oikya Parishad.

until the case was disposed of. SeE PaGE 5 CoL 5

shrinking

Says UN Special Rapporteur Heiner Bielefeldt in report about Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The adoption of certain restrictive legislative and administrative measures has led to a shrinking space for religious or political dissent and frank public discourse, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief Heiner Bielefeldt has said.

He made the comment in a report on Bangladesh to the UN Human Rights Council mainly describing what he said during his visit to Dhaka last year.

Even, it says when the rules were enacted with the intention to defend secular democracy and may thus inadvertently erode the very principles that the measures were supposed to protect.

The UN expert undertook a visit to Bangladesh from August 31 to September 9, 2015 and he presented the report on January 22 and it made public on Wednesday.

While appreciating the government's commitment to further develop an inclusive secularity of the state, which is supposed to provide space for the free unfolding of religious SeE PaGE 5 CoL 2

hotel. The council is scheduled

to be held on March 19 at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the city. He also inaugurated the

BNP unveils logo,

slogan for March

BNP yesterday unveiled the

logo, theme and slogan of

its forthcoming sixth

a BNP standing committee

member and the chief of the

party's council preparatory

committee's sub-committee

on management and public-

ity, revealed those at a

programme in a Dhaka

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy,

19 council

national council.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

activities of the management and publicity subcommittee.

The theme of the council is "We will Free Democracy" while the slogan "Corruption and Misrule will Surely End -- Bangladesh is for Democracy."

The council's logo contains the symbol of the Liberation War and the National Memorial, National Flag and the sheaf of paddy, the party's elec-

toral symbol. Gayeshwar told the programme, "We want to go SeE pAGE 5 cOL 8



From left, Ann McConnell, public affairs officer of the American Center, Ejaj Ahmad, president of BYLC, Kazi Akhtar Uddin Ahmed, secretary to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and K M Abdus Salam, acting director general of NGO Affairs Bureau, at the 14th Building Bridges through Leadership Training programme. PhOTO: Collected

Bangladesh's future depends on quality of young leaders

Youth and sports ministry secretary tells BYLC event

CITY DESK

Stressing social cohesion in society, Kazi Akhtar Uddin Ahmed, secretary to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, has said the future of Bangladesh largely depends on the quality of youth leadership.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the 14th "Building Bridges through Leadership Training" (BBLT) programme of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center, says a BYLC press release.

"I commend BYLC on bringing together students from English, Bangla and Madrasa medium and fostering values of inclusive and tolerant leadership among the young

generation," he said. "Leadership is not about advancing your own personal interests. It is about working with others and striving to make progress on some of

group, community, or country. hope the training at BYLC will cultivate courage, compassion, and competence and prepare you for a lifetime of leadership for the development of our society," said BYLC President Ejaj Ahmad. KM Abdus Salam, acting director

general of NGO Affairs Bureau, who was a special guest, said, "BYLC's pioneering work in the field of youth leadership is instrumental in developing the next generation." Forty-two students are selected

competitively to go through a rigorous training on the theoretical and practical concepts of leadership. They will then apply their classroom learning into action by designing and implementing small, scalable, and sustainable community service projects.

Ann McConnell, public affairs officer of the American Center, also graced the event as a special guest. the tough challenges facing as a

India passes law to develop 111 rivers as transport routes

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian parliament gave its nod to a bill to convert 111 rivers across India into National Waterways, one of which would facilitate seamless transportation of cargo from India to Bangladesh. The National Waterways Bill was passed

by Rajya Sabha, on Wednesday, which was approved by Lok Sabha last year. Indian Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari said the

passage of the much-awaited bill will boost the maritime trade and augment their economy.

He regretted that waterways had taken a backseat in India, with only 3.5 percent of trade being done through the mode there as against 47 percent in China, 40 percent in Europe, and 35 percent in Bangladesh.

"We are setting up three multi-model hubs including one in Sahibganj in Bihar and once completed, a cargo could directly go to Bangladesh from Indian states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and states like Uttar Pradesh," he said.

3 girls rescued from forced prostitution, 4 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police in Chittagong city yesterday rescued three teenage girls from forced prostitution and arrested four people in this connection.

The arrestees are Nasir Uddin, 48, his wife Kulsuma Begum, 40, and their accomplices Ali Hossain, 30, and Shamsul Islam, 38, said police.

On information, a team of police from Panchlaish Police Station conducted a drive at a house in the city's Hill View Residential Area in the morning and arrested the four in connection with

তথ্য জানতে বা অভিযোগ জানাতে যোগাযোগ করুন ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ

বা ইউএনও অফিসে

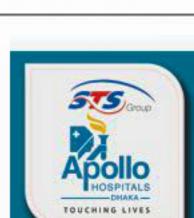
the force prostitution, said Inspector (investigation) of the police station Gias Uddin. Later, police rescued the girls, who are

aged between 16 to 18 years, from the

house. They were confined to the house for around three years, he said. Quoting the girls the inspector said that the arrestees brought them in the city from different areas of the country after alluring

A case was filed with the police station in this connection. Later, the arrestees were sent to jail, he added.

them to give jobs in different private compa-



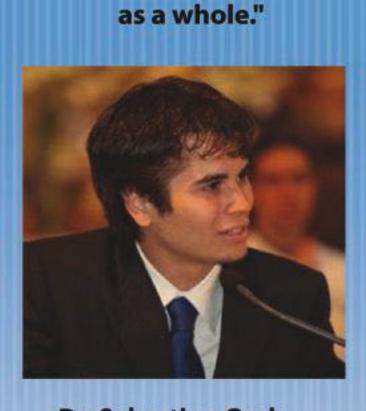
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Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 Admission Test: Friday, April 1, 2016 Form Sale: All days of the week from 10:00 AM - 08:00 PM



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